

2007 Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Biennial Survey

Summary Report



PA Forest Stewards

April 2008

Brief Summary

The 2007 edition of the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards (PA Forest Stewards) biennial survey shows that PA Forest Stewards volunteers continue to actively promote forest stewardship in their communities. The number of volunteer hours reported was comparable to the number reported in the 2005 survey, with a significant number of volunteers (15.1%) not responding to our survey or phone calls. This year volunteers reached numerous of friends, neighbors, or members of the public (estimated 19,500 people). The most common outreach activity remains talking to neighbors and other woodland owners about forest stewardship. PA Forest Stewards volunteers continue to be active members and supporters of Pennsylvania's local/regional woodland owner associations: 156 PA Forest Stewards (54% of respondents) were members and 83 (29% of respondents) were board members or in leadership roles.

Survey Methods

We sent a survey form (sample on the last four pages of this report) to all of the PA Forest Stewards volunteers in the database (N=338). We sent a second identical survey form to those who did not complete the first form by the deadline, and a third identical form to those who did not respond by the second deadline. We emailed or phoned each person who did not respond to the third mailed survey and offered the option to respond via telephone. If we were unable to talk to the PA Forest Steward, we left a message asking them to call us back.

Four hundred forty-eight PA Forest Stewards volunteers have been trained since the program's inception and three hundred fifty-seven remained in the program at the start of the survey. (This number includes the new volunteers from 2007 – 19 people. These new volunteers were not surveyed this calendar year.) Although we made no attempt to contact people who were no longer involved in the program before the survey began, we do know that we have lost some PA Forest Stewards over the years when they moved out of state, sold their forestland, suffered from deteriorating health, or passed away. In 2007, we removed 13 people from the database, who said they were no longer interested in the program.

Results and Discussion

Response Rate

Of the 338 PA Forest Stewards to be surveyed in the program at the beginning of the survey period, 287 provided survey information (84.9% response rate). Separate surveys were sent to each PA Forest Stewards volunteer within a household. Several volunteers responded for themselves and their partner – this was taken into account in the reporting below.

Ownership Information

Two hundred thirty-four PA Forest Stewards respondents own forestland (81.5%). PA Forest Stewards own land in 54 out of 67 counties in Pennsylvania, as well as New York, Wisconsin, South Carolina, New Jersey, and Virginia. PA Forest Stewards own over 45,390 acres of land, of which 37,938 is forested (84%). Average parcel size for the volunteers is 208 acres.

Current Status

The survey asked PA Forest Stewards to indicate their volunteer status: active in the past 12 months; inactive in the past 12 months, but wish to remain in the program; and no longer interested (see Table 1). Two hundred sixteen (63.9%) said they were currently active. Fifty-seven (16.9%) indicated that they were currently inactive but were still interested in remaining in the program. Many of the inactive volunteers cited time limitations and health factors as reasons, but hoped to become active again in the future. Thirteen (3.8%) indicated that they were no longer interested in the program, fifty-one (15.1%) did not respond to either the written surveys or telephone calls, and one volunteer passed away this year.

Table 1: Status of PA Forest Stewards Volunteers

Status	Number	Percentage
Active	216	63.9
Inactive	57	16.9
Did Not Respond	51	15.1
No Longer Interested	14 (includes one deceased)	4.1
Total	338	100.0

Outreach

PA Forest Stewards volunteers were asked to estimate how many friends, neighbors, or members of the public they reached through their stewardship-related outreach activities. Two hundred thirty-four volunteers responded to this question with an estimated 19,500 people reached. The breakdown of responses can be found in Table 2.

Table 2: People Reached Through Stewardship-Related Outreach Activities

Estimated Range	Respondents	Percentage
1-10 people	95	40.6
11-25 people	49	20.9
26-50 people	23	9.8
51-100 people	27	11.5
101-500 people	32	13.7
Over 500 people	8	3.4
Total	234	100.0

Volunteer Hours

The survey also measured PA Forest Stewards volunteer hours. PA Forest Stewards were asked to provide hours for over thirty-one categories of activities on their own land and working with others to promote Forest Stewardship in the past 12 months. The hours reported is probably an underestimate, because it is likely that some of the 51 non-respondents also had volunteer hours that went unreported.

The PA Forest Stewards who did provide quantitative information collectively reported over 43,800 volunteer hours in all Forest Stewardship activities (average = 152.6 hours) reaching an estimated 19,500 people. These numbers indicate a continued high rate of involvement in light

of the initial agreement PA Forest Stewards make at the time of their training. Their commitment is limited to 40 volunteer hours in the 12 months after training; no further commitment is required. However, the active volunteers averaged over 152 hours of service in the past year alone, and many of these volunteers went through the initial training years ago.

The new volunteers (Class of 2006) were surveyed for the first time this year. Thirty-four new volunteers were surveyed with thirty-three responding. The new volunteers reported 7,529 volunteer hours in all Forest Stewardship activities (average = 228 hours).

Table 3: Number of Hours and Average Hours Volunteered in the Past 12 Months

Volunteers	Number of Hours	Average Number of Hours
All Volunteers	43,804*	152.6
New Volunteers (2006)	7,529	228.2

* Greater than 21 full-time employees at 40 hours per week for 50 weeks.

Stewardship Activities

The survey also asked PA Forest Stewards to list their Stewardship activities. One primary objective of training Forest Stewardship volunteers is to provide them with the tools they need to effectively encourage their friends, neighbors, and other community members to become good stewards of their own lands. The most frequent PA Forest Stewards activity was talking to neighbors and other woodland owners about Forest Stewardship (see Table 4). Two hundred eleven PA Forest Stewards reported doing this activity in the past year.

The other most common outreach activities were attending forest conferences, workshops, and seminars (136), working to support an existing woodland owners association (118), distributing Forest Stewardship information (91), referrals to consulting foresters (78), and serving on Advisory Committees (49).

The most commonly cited stewardship activities that PA Forest Stewards implemented on their own properties included removing competing vegetation (134), maintaining trails and roads (133), planting trees/ reforestation (122), timber stand improvement (121), and wildlife enhancement (96).

Table 4: Forest Stewardship Activities in the Previous 12 Months

Activity	Number
Talking with neighbors and other woodland owners about forest stewardship	211
Attending forestry conferences, workshops, seminars	136
Removing competing vegetation/invasive plants	134
Maintaining trails and roads	133
Planting trees/reforestation	122
Timber stand improvement	121
Working to support an existing woodland owners association	118
Wildlife enhancement	96
Distributing Forest Stewardship information	91

Referrals to consulting foresters	78
Watershed-related activities	61
Serving on Advisory Committees	49
Presentations to adult groups	49
Deer fencing/census/control	47
Providing input to elected representatives and government agencies	47
Leading and hosting woodland tours	47
Other conservation volunteerism	47
Assisting service forester	45
Working with children/schools	44
Planning and coordinating workshops/conferences for woodland owners	40
Timber sale and preparation	40
Other forest management activities on own land	38
Writing and providing information to media about forest stewardship	38
Staffing forestry exhibits	33
Conservation easements on land	26
Growing non-timber forest products	22
Community tree projects	20
Preparing new forest stewardship plan	17
Other (please list)*	16
Volunteer in state forests/parks	13
Working to start new woodland owner group	10

* Examples of other activities include: American chestnut breeding orchard, vernal ponds, biological pest control, CREP, TreeVitalize, plant nurseries, Tree Farm database, firebreaks, DMAP, Envirothon, Pond Management, Logger Education.

Local Woodland Owner Associations

Local woodland owner associations (WOAs) are important catalysts for promoting Forest Stewardship in Pennsylvania. Each group is independent, and most sponsor education programs, woodland tours, and newsletters to provide woodland owners with information about managing their forestlands. The “Nurturing WOAs” subcommittee of the PA Forest Stewards Steering Committee has targeted supporting existing associations, helping to make connections between strong and struggling groups, and starting new groups in parts of the state where no such organizations exist. As part of this effort, the third statewide conference for all of Pennsylvania’s WOAs was held in September 2007.

One hundred fifty-six (54%) PA Forest Stewards belong to at least one local or regional WOA and sixty-seven (23%) reported that they were board members. One hundred eighteen respondents reported working to support an existing woodlands association and ten PA Forest Stewards said they were working to start new associations.

Table 5: Local Woodland Owner Association Memberships

Name of Local Association	Number of PA Forest Steward Members
North Central Forest Landowners’ Association	19
Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association	17

Woodland Owners of Centre County	14
Woodland Owners of the Clarion-Allegheny Valley	13
Woodland Owners of the Southern Alleghenies	12
Bradford-Sullivan Forest Landowners' Association	11
Lycoming Woodland Owners' Association	11
Northwest Pennsylvania Woodland Association	11
Central Susquehanna Woodland Owners Association	9
Laurel Highlands Forest Landowners Association	8
Allegheny Mountain Woodlands Association	7
Mercer County Woodland Owners Association	7
Wayne-Lackawanna Forest Landowners' Association	7
Dauphin County Woodland Owners Association	5
Susquehanna County Forest Landowners' Association	5
Tioga County Woodland Owners Association	5
Perry-Juniata Woodland Owners Association	4
Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodland Owners' Association	4
Cumberland Woodland Owners Association*	3
Mifflin County Forest Landowners Association	2
Clarion County Forest Stewardship Council	1
Clearfield-Jefferson Counties Forest Stewardship Committee*	1

* New association formed since the last survey.

Other Associations and Memberships

PA Forest Stewards are active in many other organizations related to forest stewardship (see Table 6). Common affiliations include Forest Stewardship Property (130), wildlife conservation organizations (98), American Tree Farm System (85), Pennsylvania Forestry Association (70), land conservancies (65), watershed protection organizations (58), and the American Chestnut Foundation (50).

Table 6: Other Memberships and Affiliations Related to Forest Stewardship

Organization	Number
Forest Stewardship Property	130
Wildlife Conservation Organizations	98
American Tree Farm System	85
Pennsylvania Forestry Association	70
Land Conservancies	65
Watershed Protection Organizations	58
The American Chestnut Foundation	50
Farm Organizations and Committees	26
Other memberships related to stewardship	23

Assistance

PA Forest Stewards were also surveyed as to how the program has helped their stewardship or outreach activities during the last year. The top answers were:

- Provided useful resources and materials
- Motivated me to be a better steward of land I own or help manage
- Improved my basic understanding of forest stewardship concepts
- Motivated me to learn more or take additional workshops
- Helped focus my stewardship or conservation activities

Continuing Education

Space was provided in the survey for PA Forest Stewards volunteers to suggest topics for continuing education, or follow-up training in the coming years. The most common responses were:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| • Wildlife habitat | • Strip mine reclamation |
| • Invasives eradication and control | • Community outreach |
| • Taxes and estate planning | • Urban forestry |
| • Forest health | • Information technology |
| • Oil, gas, and mineral leasing | • Deer |
| • Timber sales | • Biomass |
| • Grading timber | • Laws, rules, and regulations for forestry |
| • Restoration forestry | • Crop tree management |
| • Forest soils | • Leadership skills |
| • Carbon | • Tree grafting |
| • Zoning | • Wetlands |
| • Non-timber forest products | • Engaging youth |
| • Forest management | • American chestnut planting |
| • Harvesting | |
| • Hunting leases | |

Preferred Method of Contact

To facilitate our dissemination of information and outreach around forest stewardship opportunities, the survey queried preferred means of contact for the PA Forest Stewards volunteers. The most preferred were:

- Direct mail (newsletter, other paper mailings)
- Forest Leaves (quarterly newsletter)
- Email
- PSU Cooperative Extension Office

Proud Events

Again this year, the 2007 survey included space for volunteers to share their proudest activities from the past year. A smattering of results...

I led a tour at the 2007 PAFS Annual picnic with Tim Cole.

Establishing and caring for American chestnut breeding nursery; maintaining FLEP plantings; managing timber stands and sale; managing farmland use; working with conservation agencies.

Staffing the Woodland Owners Association table at Ag Progress, TSI on my property and at hunting club property in Lycoming, certification as Tree Farm, work with WOCC

Working for PFA at Farm Show

Over the last 3 years I have planted many native shrubs on the banks of Turtle Creek in Pedora Park. This is a very small stretch of Turtle Creek but now Public Works does not mow down to the water's edge anymore! I have also planted shrubs and trees along Turtle Creek in Duff Park

I spent a considerable amount of time discussing the benefits of the FSP and conservation easements with my sister. She ultimately enrolled her 130 acres in Luzerne Co in the North Central Conservancy

Continuing my efforts to donate an easement to the Forestry Legacy program, despite 4 years of frustration.

Hosted woodland tour on Schuylkill property; achieved 8 of 10 goals on stewardship plan; hundreds of hours working in woodlot.

Though my congregation is an eclectic bunch (urban, suburban, rural, upper-middle-lower classes), they are making the connection for a theology of creation!

Speaking to high school teachers during an all-day in-service. These folks know little or nothing about forest issues. We push the deer question hard, give a tour of our 3 acre enclosure. Afterwards, one man said he'd heard a lot about the deer issue but didn't believe it until he heard us speak and showed him the difference inside and outside the enclosure.

Planting another 130 trees, building stone wall, building brush piles for animals, thinning dense areas, finding new TACF members

I'm working to get more stewardship info to young people. We have established a committee to increase our youth outreach - some ideas work; some have not.

Conducted a landowner seminar in conjunction with the NWTF. We had great speakers from DCNR, PSU, NWTF, and Pheasants Forever. We had about 30 attendees and received some great feedback on the program.

I introduced a board member of the Somerset Historical Association to the forest stewardship concept. I obtained the name of the service forester in Somerset County for him. He followed up and the Somerset Historical Association is now managing their woodlands in keeping with good forestry practices (Prior to my contact, the Association was considering just timbering without a professional forester or any input from the PA Service Forester)

I spoke to a class of 2nd graders. Read a story about trees. Gave each student an evergreen seedling and coordinated a tree planting at an inner city school in York with all second graders helping by putting a trowel of soil in planting hole.

Working as the program chairman for WOCAV where I am a charter member and director arranging programs which are beginning to reach people who have not previously been involved in any formal approach to managing their land.

BSFLA celebrated its 25th anniversary, successfully reached its \$10K scholarship goal and was awarded a 2007 NEPA Environmental Partnership Award. The Bradford county Commissions have a consulting forester and a forest stewardship plan for Mt. Pisgah County Park

Doing the Kid Connection program. It was a lot of fun seeing all the kids interested in making our bagel bird feeders and planting the white pine seedling seeds. We had a great turnout and we're looking forward to doing it again this year.

I helped Dave Scamardella, Bureau of Forestry Service Forester, control invasive species on the Kerper Tract in Fulton County. The Chambersburg Newspaper covered the work day and we made the front page with a write up and picture

Planting approximately 130 trees along riparian corridors in Bucks County; educating landowners through my job at the Conservancy; led the forestry component of the 2007 Envirothon - a program designed to cultivate a desire to learn more about our natural environment through competitive events between various high schools in PA.

Hosting the Erie Master Gardeners, teaching adults and young people on the art of grafting, able to contribute to NWPWA on tours and workshops, give advice on many oil and gas leases, most dealing with timber property, working with Rutgers Univ. on new developments, developed a procedure of getting nuts one year after graft

Through timber tax presentations I was subsequently able to give professional tax and timber sale advice, without charge, to approximately 5 individuals, including reviewing tax returns, directing landowners to a CPA, and return preparation.

I wrote a brochure "Potter County's Forested Riparian Buffers" which was distributed 200 copies through local businesses.

Our research project, begun in 2001, with 300 trees utilizing cytoplasmic male sterility in the breeding of blight resistant American chestnuts continues to be challenging and rewarding. It enables us to produce chestnuts by open pollination rather than the traditional labor intensive hand pollination

This year we are testing the three types of protection tubes for trees planted in a CREP project under the Coop Ext Agency of Clearfield County at our farm.

2007 Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Volunteer Survey

Name(s): _____

If your contact information has changed recently, please share it with us:

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I own forestland (Circle one): YES NO

If yes, in what county/counties? _____

How many acres? _____ How many forested acres? _____

Current Status (check one);

Active: I have volunteered time to promote Forest Stewardship sometime in the past 12 months.

Inactive: I have not volunteered time to promote Forest Stewardship in the past 12 months, but I am still interested in the PA Forest Stewards program and would like to be listed in the directory and remain on the mailing list.

No longer interested: Please do not list me in the directory and remove my name from the mailing list.

Additional Comments: _____

Over the past 12 months, please estimate how many friends, neighbors, or members of the public you reached through your stewardship-related outreach activities:

- None
- 1-10 people
- 11-25 people
- 26-50 people
- 51-100 people
- 101-500 people
- more than 500 people

From the list below, please select your Forest Stewardship volunteer activities in the past 12 months and estimate the hours spent in each activity. If you do not see an activity listed, please write it in the space below.

Activity	Hours
<input type="checkbox"/> Talking with neighbors and other woodland owners about forest stewardship	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Working to support an existing woodland owner group	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Working to start new woodland owner group	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Attending forestry conferences, workshops, seminars	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Working with children/schools	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Presentations to adult groups	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing and providing information to media about forest stewardship	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Planning and coordinating workshops/conferences for woodland owners	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Served on Advisory Committees	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Leading and hosting woodland tours	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Distributing Forest Stewardship information	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Providing input to elected representatives and government agencies	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Assisting service forester	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Staffing forestry exhibits	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other conservation volunteerism	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Referrals to consulting forester	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer in a state forests/parks	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Community tree projects	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Maintaining trails/roads	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Timber stand improvement	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Planting trees/reforestation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife enhancement	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Removing competing vegetation/invasive plants	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Watershed-related activities	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Timber sale and preparation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Deer fencing/census/control	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Growing non-timber forest products	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Preparing new forest stewardship plan	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation easements on land	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other forest management activities on own land	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list): _____	_____

Affiliations:

I am active in a woodland owner association (circle one): YES NO

If yes, which association(s): _____

If yes, are you a board member or officer of the association: YES NO

Other affiliations:

- Forest Stewardship Property
 - Tree Farm System
 - Pennsylvania Forestry Association
 - American Chestnut Foundation
 - Wildlife Conservation Organizations (please list): _____
 - Watershed Protection Organizations (please list): _____
 - Farm Organizations and Committees (please list): _____
 - Land Conservancies (please list): _____
 - Other memberships or affiliations related to forest stewardship: _____
-

In the past year, has the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards helped your stewardship or outreach activities in any of these ways? Check all that apply.

- Provided useful resources materials
- Motivated me to learn more or take additional workshops
- Helped connect me to other volunteers with common interests/concerns
- Improved my basic understanding of forest stewardship concepts
- Connected me to new resource professionals
- Motivated me to be a better steward of land I own or help manage
- Helped focus my stewardship or conservation activities

Are there topics you would like to see offered as follow-up (continuing education) training for PA Forest Stewards in the coming year?

How do you like to be contacted by the PA Forest Stewards program? Please check all that apply.

- Email
- Direct mail (newsletter, other paper mailings)
- Telephone
- Forest Leaves
- PA Forest Stewards Listserv (VIP Discussion Listserv)
- PSU Cooperative Extension Office
- Personal connections with other volunteers
- Other (please specify) _____

Please tell us about PA Forest Stewards volunteer activity(ies) you are most proud of in the past year.

Is there anything else you would like to share with us about the PA Forest Stewards volunteer program or outreach during the past year?

Please return this form in the accompanying postage-paid envelope to:
Forest Resources Extension
320 Forest Resources Building
Penn State University
University Park, PA 16802